



**CITY OF
ABILENE**

P.O. Box 60
555 Walnut Abilene, Texas 79604

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 11, 1992

Ms. Donna Searcy
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Room 222
Washington, D. C. 20554

Subject: Docket # 92-77 "Billed Party Preference"

Dear Ms. Searcy:

I am writing to express our concern about the proposed implementation of "Billed Party Preference". The proposed regulations will be counter productive to our program for providing pay telephone service at convenient locations and at a reasonable price for long distance service. We provide telephones at various city facilities and curbside areas. The telephones are for the 106,000 citizens of Abilene and the travelers who come through our municipal airport.

Every telephone is properly labeled and identifies the operator assisted long distance carrier. The customer can choose to use his own carrier by the 0+, 10XXX and 800/950 access features. This is his choice and nothing is hidden from him. The equal access feature protects the customer and the service provider. BPP removes the protection for the service provider.

BPP will become a race to see which long distance company can provide the most calling cards. The local service provider will have no control over his facilities. The citizens of Abilene will be asked to provide tax dollars to support the pay telephone system which is now supported by the revenues from the 0+ commissions. This is a program that should be supported by user fees and not one supported by a tax on the general public.

We ask that you reconsider the effects that BPP will have on the service providers and not implement the regulations.

Sincerely,


Jim C. Blagg
City Manager

Together We Make A Difference

Gary D. McCaleb Mayor

Jim C. Blagg City Manager

Council

Paul R. Vasquez

Betty Ray

Jack Grable

Bill Terry

Ray Ferguson

Liz Herrera